



Public Comment Opportunity

FMC Proposed Pond Closure Plans

This public notice announces a 30-day comment period, beginning February 1, 2001 and ending March 2, 2001, for public comment on the proposed closure of the Slag Pit Sump, the Drum Storage Unit and the Anderson Filter Washing Unit at FMC/Astaris Corporation in Pocatello.

These units are regulated under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency invites you to comment on these closure plans.

Slag Pit Sump Closure Plan

The FMC/Astaris plant produces elemental phosphorus, and generates RCRA regulated hazardous waste. The Slag Pit Wastewater Collection Sump, designated WMU #5 covers an area of approximately 100 square feet in the southeast corner of the slag pit. The sump is unlined and received phosphy water from sources within the Furnace Building and occasionally, phosphorus contaminated water (phosphy water) from the Phos Dock. Liquids and solids were removed during the slag pit dewatering project in April 1999. In September 1993, the Slag Pit Sump was backfilled with slag. Modifications to the slag management operations in the slag pit were partially completed in 1999. The slag pit sump requires a final cover in order to meet EPA closure requirements and minimize rain infiltration and migration of residual soil contamination resulting from past practices. In November, 1999 the area was regraded and an interim cover was placed over the slag pit area. The proposed activities, contained in the Slag Pit Waste Water Collection Sump Closure Plan revised in April, 2000. The plan includes installing a permanent RCRA cap over this unit with subsequent annual inspection. The final cap will be installed over the interim cover. The cap consists of a layer of geosynthetic clay (GCL), underlying a flexible membrane liner and a geonet (drainage layer). An asphalt concrete/slag/sand cover is placed over the cap for protection against the elements, erosion, and animal or human intrusion. The protective cover will have a minimum thickness of 3.5 feet, and will be placed on the geofabric filter overlying the drainage layer. The surface of the protective cover will consist of an 8-inch asphaltic concrete layer designed to support the anticipated traffic loads in the slag pit area.

Andersen Filter Media (AFM) Washing Unit

The Andersen Filter Media (AFM) Washing Unit, is designated as WMU # 13. Andersen scrubbers, using AFM, are used at the facility to control particulate emissions during the phosphorus production process. In 1992, washing of the AFT at WMU #13 was initiated to reduce the naturally-occurring radionuclides prior to disposal of the AFM at an off-site landfill. The washing process also reduced the metals concentration in the AFM. The rinsewater discharged from the AFM Washing Unit was routed to the Wastewater Treatment Unit from March 1, 1992 to April 24, 1995 and to Tank V-3600 from April 24, 1995 to November 27, 1995. The unit ceased operation in November 1995. The AFM Washing Unit is located on the 16 foot level of the Furnace Building. The unit will be closed by removal, which will be protective of human health and the environment. Closure by removal requires decontamination of all process equipment, cleanup of secondary containment structures, and proper disposal of all waste. The process equipment will be dismantled and either disposed of as waste or salvaged for other uses. Decontamination washwater will be managed as RCRA hazardous waste. The details for the proposed closure are included in the July 26, 2000 Closure Plan for the AFM Washing Unit.

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Drum Storage Unit Closure Plan

The Drum Storage Unit, WMU #1, is used by FMC/Astaris is used to store waste degreasing solvents, waste paint solvents, generic laboratory chemicals, phosphorus contaminated debris, and other miscellaneous wastes generated during the operation and maintenance of the elemental phosphorus production process. Laboratory chemicals may contain elemental phosphorus. The unit consists of a concrete slab with side curbing around the slab, a fiberglass floor grating, and a polypropylene basin with a gridded frame and cover over the frame in the basin. The wastes are received from satellite accumulation areas and other parts of the facility such as the paint shop and laboratory. FMC/Astaris converted this unit to a less than 90-day accumulation area. This closure plan proposes clean closure in accordance with RCRA requirements by removing all wastes, containers and associated structures and by decontaminating the basin, grating, and concrete slab and curbing. Wood will be disposed of as hazardous waste. Soil sampling will be conducted to verify that no releases have occurred under the secondary containment pad. The Drum Storage Unit Closure Plan, dated July 2000, will be implemented when the unit ceases managing hazardous wastes.

Copies of the facility's closure plans are available for public review during the comment period at the following locations:

Idaho State University Library
Government Documents Department
9th and Terry
Pocatello, Idaho 83209
(208) 236-2940

Shoshone Bannock Library
Pima and Bannock (P.O. Box 306)
Fort Hall, Idaho 83203

The comment period for these proposed closure plans runs from February 1, 2001 through March 2, 2001. Written comments should include all reasonably available references, factual grounds and supporting material and should be sent to:

**Linda Meyer
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 10
1200 Sixth Avenue (WCM-121)
Seattle, WA 98101**

If significant interest is expressed by way of written comments, EPA may conduct a public hearing. Persons wishing to request a public hearing should submit the request in writing before February 16, 2001 to Linda Meyer, U.S. EPA Region 10 (WCM-121), 1200 Sixth Avenue, Seattle, WA, 98101. If EPA decides to conduct a public hearing, it will be held on February 22, 2001 from 6:30 - 8:30 pm at the Pocatello City Council Chambers, 911 North 7th Avenue. To determine whether or not EPA has decided to hold a public hearing, contact EPA at the toll-free number listed below.

In the event a hearing is not held, all written comments will still be considered in reaching a final decision on this proposed action. EPA will provide a written response to all comments. Subsequent to the comment period and hearing (if held), EPA will approve, disapprove or modify the closure plans.

Questions? If you have questions about any of the information provided in this advertisement, please contact EPA at (800) 424-4372, extension 8578. *The site indicated for the public hearing, if held, is wheel-chair accessible; those requiring additional services should contact EPA at the number listed above no later than February 16, 2001.*